

THE DODGE CITY TIMES.

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N. B. ELAINE, Editor and Publisher.

IRRIGATION IN COLORADO.

THE ECONOMY OF IRRIGATION.

The history of irrigation warrants the statement, beyond all contradiction, that without it, in certain dry climates, no successful crops of any kind can be raised; and also, that in ordinarily humid climates, all over the American continent, there occur periods when droughts are experienced and the crops are almost a complete failure, while with irrigation properly and industriously conducted, double the yield attained without it can be assured. It is, therefore, logically true that irrigation, properly conducted, either in a dry or humid climate, may be decidedly profitable. The testimony of California, Colorado, New Mexico, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and almost any State and Territory of the American Union, places the matter beyond dispute. The Pacific Rural Press, of California, in speaking of the Woodland Ditch Company, which is but the mirror of hundreds of similar institutions, says: "All the grain irrigated by this company will produce a fair average crop. The same grain, without irrigation, would have been an almost total failure. The cost to the farmer for water is about \$4 per acre, and the grain will probably be worth \$25 to \$30."

Colusa county, California, the Alfalfa or Chilli clover, probably Lucerne, produces ordinarily, without irrigation, three tons per acre at each cutting, twice a year; but with irrigation it reaches to three tons three times a year. Mr. Safford, of Hope, Maine, says he has forty acres of meadow which he irrigates from a small stream. He does not allow water to go on it in the winter, as it kills the roots of the grass. Of two fields, side by side, one without irrigation yielded 400 pounds to the acre; the other, irrigated, from two to three tons. He uses no manure.

In some localities, but not usually in Colorado, the charge for water is \$1.50 per inch, which astounds parties who come from the East, and wonder how a farmer can possibly pay so much for the irrigating season. It is easily explained. The employment of irrigation doubles the product. Where, in the United States, except in Colorado or California, (as is popularly claimed,) is the average yield so high as 25 or 28 bushels of wheat to the acre? If they did not irrigate, the crops would yield probably only 12 or 20 bushels, as in Iowa, Illinois, and other portions of the favored West. If they have to put more labor upon their farm, it yields immensely more in proportion. A farmer in Colorado, who for seven years has steadily stuck to business and worked only half as hard as the slaving husbandman of the older States, will be found wealthy, and not actually compelled to work another day. In the East it takes thirty years to acquire a competency, which the Colorado farmer acquires in seven or ten years. There is no necessity for a farmer to remain poor in Colorado, even if he starts without a penny.

In Boulder county, Colorado, the cost of irrigation is not more than 5 or 10 cents per acre, outside of a share in the works, costing, probably, from \$50 to \$100 each. The cost of repairs in the main ditch is paid by a tax on the shareholders, which usually amounts to \$5 per annum; this, added to the interest for money, is the actual cost of the water. The lateral branches are owned by each individual, and built at his own expense, which amounts to but very little, and that only in labor when the men and teams have nothing else to do. The representation that irrigation is expensive is a mistake calculated or intended to depreciate the country and institute unfavorable comparisons with eastern agriculture. In any country which is subject to occasional drought, a crop cannot be assured

without irrigation; with it the yield may be doubled. The expense of irrigation is probably less by 50 per cent than average loss by drought in any State in the Union. The main fall is not enough in any section of our country at all seasons of the year to meet the want of the crops. With irrigation, the quality of Colorado wheat is far superior to the wheat of any eastern state. With irrigation, the quality of every specimen of wheat sent to Colorado has been wonderfully improved—a fact substantiated by the reports of the Agricultural Department.

Mr. G. H. Church has a ditch whose terminus is eleven miles from Denver, on the Boulder road. It was taken out from Coal Creek, at the foot of the mountains, and runs ten miles east to his farm. The average fall is thirteen feet to the mile—too much. The size is five feet wide and one foot deep; cost about \$1,000, reckoning team and man at \$4 per day. This ditch is a proof of the efficacy of the reservoir system. It does not run enough water from the head for the entire season, but is kept running all the time while water can be obtained, and stored in a lake or reservoir, to be used as a reserve in dry seasons. He has one lake from which he draws his irrigation water, but he has another which he keeps for fish breeding, and has stocked it with sunfish and catfish from the Pan-crook Lake at Valmont, and they are multiplying enormously. Mr. C. is going to the States in the spring to bring out some black bass to stock another lake. He thinks that all through the season, which was very dry, it cost him for spreading and manipulating the water on 40 acres about \$1 per acre; in ordinary seasons it would not cost half that amount. The lake is one and a half miles from his house. The irrigation lake is about 1,000 to 1,200 feet square. This water supplied last year 40 acres of land, leaving plenty for fish and for watering stock.

Mr. Magnus says of the Upper Platte and Bear Creek Ditching Company, in which he is a shareholder, that it costs him about \$30 to \$35 per annum for repairs, and his share of water is about 144 square inches, which irrigates 140 acres of land, comprising about equal quantities of bottom, second bottom and upland. It costs the person at the head of the ditch only about \$5 or \$6 per annum, and the last person on the line of the ditch it costs about \$50 per annum. This ditch is five or six miles long in Arapahoe county, though it commences in Jefferson county, 16 feet wide at the head and 20 inches deep, tapering gradually as it passes down the line. Mr. Everett, on the divide between Clear Creek and Platte, says that it costs a great deal less in proportion for water to irrigate 160 acres than it does 40 acres. To illustrate this in his own case, he says he irrigated 180 acres of land with 90 inches of water, and it is generally conceded by the whole neighborhood, that 30 or 40 inches is required to irrigate about 40 or 50 acres. He says he has always averaged over 25 bushels of wheat to the acre before this year. He says, if the farmer is well situated for irrigating, and can employ his water to advantage, 25 bushels per acre of wheat is a very low average indeed.

It may be said, after reading the statements as to the cost of irrigation, that there is a discrepancy per acre. This can be accounted for thus: Where the amount extends to \$1 per acre, or in that neighborhood, the farmer hires the water of a ditch company, who realize a large profit on the investment. The mere manipulation of the water, when the main ditch is built, will probably not cost above 50 cents per acre for 160 acres, but rather more in proportion for 40 acres. Platte Water Canal Company charge about \$3 per inch; Table Mountain, \$1.50; Farmers' Ditch, Jefferson county, \$1.50; Balston Creek Ditch Company, \$3.

Mr. Meeber, of Greeley, gives in the Greeley Tribune, an estimate of the cost of canal No. 1, as follows: Length of surveyed line, thirty and a half miles; completed length, twenty-six miles; cost of excavating 107,949 cubic yards at 21 cents per yard,

\$22,689.29; head in Larimer county, section 11, township 6 north, range 65 west; terminus in Weld county, section fifteen, township 6 north, range 65 west; distance from head to terminus, (air line,) seventeen miles; lost by sinuosity, 53 per cent; total fall in twenty-six miles, 75 feet 9 inches; fall per mile, about 3 feet; cost per mile, \$872. Irrigation is found on a grander scale of expense in the older countries of Europe; one may scarcely find a system there more economical, or more subservient to the wants of the masses, than is found in the little community of Greeley. The lack of an equal humidity in the atmosphere with other sections, is the cause also of a lack of a great mass of those pestiferous insects well known in the United States, and the disadvantage in one case becomes an advantage in another. The lack of moisture on the plains cures the grass into hay, while the excess of moisture on the eastern seaboard, and even in the garden of the Mississippi Valley, saturates and rots the grass, which is lost to utility for everything but manure, when left on the ground during the winter.

A Kansas man lately received a back pension of \$7,800.

REMOVAL.

Mrs. A. L. Robbins and Mrs. Mullen-dore have purchased the stock of MILLINERY GOODS of Mrs. L. K. McIntyre, and have removed the same to the building opposite the signal office, where they will be pleased to meet customers. Dress making also carried on.

Final Proofs.

W. F. Petillon, district clerk of Ford county, is prepared to make out applications for final proof on homestead and pre-emption lands. The testimony of witnesses and applicants can also be taken before Mr. Petillon. He will attend to all kinds of business with the United States Land Office at Larned. aug31-1f

Letter heads, note heads, bill heads, envelopes, statements, yankee statements, business cards, calling cards, invitations, dodgers, circulars, posters, etc., printed on short notice at this office.

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U. S. LAND OFFICE,

Larned, Kansas, September 28, 1892.
Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Clerk of the District Court of Ford county, Kansas, at the county seat, on Monday, November 6, 1892, viz:

HENRY P. NIESS, declaratory statement No. 8,504, for the S 1/4 of SE 1/4 Sec 23, and lots 1 and 2, Sec 23, T 28 N, R 25 W.
He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Morris Collier, F. C. Zimmermann, John T. Riney, A. J. Anthony, all of Dodge City Postoffice, Ford County, Kansas.
C. A. MORRIS, Register.